

Jeff Turnbull, as part of his Revenues collection had done some research on these stamps and users. He has written with more details of the various establishments and rather than pick out the bits which did not appear in the last Bulletin I will publish the whole.

Tea Clearing House Stamps.

The Tea Clearing House was established in London during the 1890's, although stamps did not appear until 1924 when the stamp scheme was inaugurated.

The idea of the scheme was to provide brokers and dealers with a means of pre-payment for the small services rendered by tea warehouse keepers. These services would have included the providing of samples of tea and labelling and addressing of tea chests.

Stamps were purchased from the Clearing House in various denominations for affixing to the order forms, which were to be sent to the warehouses. Each month the warehouses would submit the stamped forms to the Clearing House for reimbursement and, after checking the stamp values against the claims, payment was made and the stamps cancelled and returned to the warehouses.

The advantages of the scheme were many, the warehouses avoided the need to raise invoices, and the brokers and dealers were saved the trouble of checking the invoices and drawing cheques etc.

The scheme continued to operate until 1970 although, as charges increased and mechanical accounting extended, the use of stamps declined considerably: in 1931-32 660,000 were issued but by 1968-69 this had fallen to 44,000. Moreover, the cost of printing stamps had risen and the introduction of decimalization would have involved much additional expense in having new plates made. The scheme ended in December 1970.

The Liverpool Corn trade Association.

The first Corn Exchange in Liverpool was built at the beginning of the 19th century by the "Corn Exchange Company". In 1853 the Association of the Liverpool Corn Trade was formed. One of its main duties was to act as agents for parties contracting for the importing of grain and the Clearing House (established in 1883) received and held payments from importers against deliveries. It was at this point, on the formation of the Clearing House, that stamps were made available to pay the fees of registration of contracts with the association.

Three perfins have been recorded on these Revenue stamps and all three on postage stamps.

HB/&C°	H0530.07	Possible id. of Harris Bros. & Co (Grain) Ltd
R.P/&S	R4140.02	Name 'Procter' in violet across a 6/-stamp. Recorded in use on postage stamps 1881-1890. Liverpool and Dublin cancels.
R.C/&C°	R0965.04	Recorded in use on postage stamps 1885-1890. Liverpool and Bristol cancels

The Liverpool Cotton Association

Liverpool was the home of the Cotton Trade in the 19th century; the Liverpool Cotton Association operated similarly to the Corn Association in the issuing of adhesive stamps for the prepayment of fees for recording contacts and fines.

- ❖ **Liverpool Cotton Brokers Association** These stamps 1872 to 1882, the 6d and 1/- values differ in background shading. The perfin "**C.H**" is found on many values and stands for **C**learing **H**ouse.
- ❖ **Liverpool Cotton Association Ltd** The Liverpool Cotton Association Ltd was an amalgamation of the Liverpool Cotton Brokers Association and the rival Cotton Exchange. The stamps were in use from 1882 until 1971 but the "**C.H**" perfin is only found on issues up to 1954.